

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110932

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 1085

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF REPORTAGE BY TRAVELING PRESS

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1974

TO ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: ALL PRESS REPORTS ANALYSE HANGUPS TO FINAL AGREE-
MENT, REFLECTING PAUCITY OF HARD INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
TRAVELERS. RADIO-TV REPORTS AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON TODAY
INJECTING INCREASING NOTE OF UNCERTAINTY THAT SECRETARY CAN
PULL IT OFF. END SUMMARY

1. KALB, VALERIANI NOT HEARD ON AIR TODAY. WESTINGHOUSE'S
ANDERSON CARRIED HOURLY ON CBS REPORTING BREATHLESSLY THAT
HAK NOW DOWN TO WIRE IN LAST GASP EFFORT TO SAVE THE
NEGOTIATIONS, ADDING VARIOUSLY (A) CEASE-FIRE LINE AGREE
MENT COMING UNSTUCK, (B) ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON SYRIAN REIN
ON PALESTINIANS A NEW MAJOR ROADBLOCK, (C) THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 110932

FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ADVERSARIES WHETHEORARY

THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE OF LONG-TERM NATURE OR A TEMPORARY PACT HAS NOW EMERGED. ANDERSON-S ASSOCIATE CAMELIK REPORTING FROM BEIRUT ALSO ON CBS THAT OUTLOOK FOR SECRETARY NOT CHEERING.

2. GWERTZMAN LEADS PAPER WITH THIS HEADLINE: KISSINGER MAKES PROGRESS IN SYRIA BUT SNAGS ARISE -- OFFICIALS SAY

KEY ISSUE OF THINNING OUT FORCES IS VIRTUALLY RESOLVED - DEADLINE PUT OFF AGAIN -- DAMASCUS BRINGS UP FRESH OBJECTIONS ON BUFFER ZONE AND DRAFT LANGUAGE. STORY NOTES OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN EXPRESSING UNCERTAINTY SECRETARY CAN WRAP UP AGREEMENT BEFORE HIS SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE, THE WHILE BEING SKEPTICAL HE WILL PACK UP AND GO HOME WITHOUT A FINAL DEAL. QTES AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT HE HAS ALL BUT RESOLVED THINNING OUT ISSUE, BUT EVEN AS A SENIOR OFFICIAL WAS RELAYING NEWS THAT "WE'RE GETTING VERY CLOSE ON THINNING OUT," SYRIANS FOUND NEW PROBLEMS WITH WIDTH OF BUFFER ZONE. THEY HAD ARISEN IN TALKS OF MAW AND AHERTON WITH SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM AND WERE IN NATURE OF "NIT-PICKS" RATHER THAN MAJOR OBSTACLES. GWERTZMAN MAKES IT PLAIN WITHOUT SO STATING THAT TRAVELERS NOT GETTING MUCH NEWS. REFERS FOR EXAMPLE TO CHARGED AIR OF SUSPENSE IN HOTEL WHERE PRESS AWAITED OUTCOME OF THIS SESSION OF TALKS AND TO DETAILS OF SECRETARY S COMPROMISE PLAN APPEARING IN ISRAELI PRESS. STORY CLOSES WITH ACCOUNT OF MEIR'S MOVING TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY.

3. LA BERGER EX JERUSALEM SHARES P-1 BYLINE WITH ONE YUVAL ELIZUR AND, ALSO REFLECTING LACK OF NEWS FROM PARTY LEADS WITH SHIMON PERES" DESCRIPTION OF SECRETARY"S LATEST EFFORTS AS -GRAND FINALE" TO AGREEMENT. THEN QTING AMERICAN OFFICIALS ABOARD PLANE, REPORTS SECRETARY SO CLOSE TO THIN-OUT AGREEMENT HE IS ALMOST READY TO SUBMIT HIS OWN PLAN FOR BRIDGING REMAINING MINOR"DIFFERENCES. AT WHICH POINT STORY QTES "OBSERVERS WHO RAISE CAUTIONARY POINT THAT EACH TIME ONE ISSUE APPEARED SOLVED ANOTHER AROSE TO TAKE ITS PLACE, CITING AS,EXAMPLE PAINSTAKING WORK WHICH WENT INTO CONSTRUCTION OF 1-4 MILE WIDE BUFFER ZONE. NOBODY OBJECTED AT TIME BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 110932

NOW COMES SYRIA DEMANDING IT BE NARROWED. BESIDES BUFFER ZONE STORY MENTIONS AS PROBLEMS ISRAELI DEMAND THAT SYRIA PREVENT PARAMILITARY ACTION AGAINST NATIONAL TERRITORY, AND DISPUTE WHETHER FINAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE PROVISIONAL, AS SYRIA WANTS, OR PERMANENT, ONE ISRAELIS WANT. STORY THEN RECOUNTS LATEST GOLAN FIGHTING AND CLOSES WITH MEIR'S LUNCHEON TRIBUTE TO HAK AS MASTER OF NEGOTIATION AND MAN OF INTELLECT AND SOUL. SHIRT-

TAILED TO STORY IS SPECULATIVE PIECE ABOUT POSSIBLE
BREZHNEV VISIT TO ME TO MATCH ONE PLANNED BY PRESIDENT.

4. O'LEARY HAS TOP HEAD ON P-1 "GOLAN TALKS INRFINAL
STAGE -- OBSERVERS OPTIMISTIC, WHICH ALSO CARRIES
PICTURE OF A SMILING HAK. O-L MINCES NO WORDS IN
REVEALING NEWS BLACKOUT BY US PARTY AND DEPENDS FOR NEWS
ON SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE ON TALKS, WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS
LENDING OPTIMISTIC AIR TO PROCEEDINGS. HE ALSO TAKES

CHEER FROM SPOKESMAN ANDERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HAK
ONITING IN JERUSALEM, SOMETHING OBSERVERS BELIEVE
IS SIGNIFICANT: SECRETARY WOULD HAVE LITTLE REASON TO
SPEND ANY GREAT LENGTH OF TIME IN ISRAEL TONIGHT IF HE
ONLY HAD THE TASK OF REPORTING TO THE ISRAELIS THAT
TALKS HAD FAILED. SPECULATIVELY O'L REPORTS THREE
POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR ON-GOING NEGOTS: (A) THAT HAK
FEELS HE IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BREAKTHROUGH TO WARRANT
CONTINUING THE TALKS; (B) THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED
AND TODAY'S MEETING IS TO DRAFT THE ACTUAL ACCORD. THIRD
REASON NOT VOUCHSAFED TO US AS STORY GOES ON TO QTE
OBSERVERS AGAIN THAT IF AGREEMENT IN PROSPECT ITS
ANNOUNCEMENT MOST CERTAINLY WOULD BE RESERVED FOR WHITE
HOUSE AND POSSIBLY SYRIA, EGYPT AND SOVIET UNION.

5. BOTH AP AND UPI CARRY MULTI-SOURCE NIGHT LEADS
REPORTING CONCLUSION OF 12TH SHUTTLE TO DAMASCUS WITH NO
WORD YET WHETHER DEAL REACHED. BOTH QUOTE AMERICAN
SOURCES AS SAYING HAK GOES HOME TOMORROW, PERIOD. TREAT-
MENT OF THIS DAY'S ACTIVITIES BRINGS GROMYKO ARRIVAL AT
DAMASCUS HIGH INTO BOTH AGENCY STORIES.

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PAGE 04 STATE 110932

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